

**REMARKS**

Claims 1-13 and 16-23 are pending in this application, of which claims 1-2, 5, 8 and 9 have been amended and claims 16-23 are newly-added.

The Examiner has maintained from the previous Office Action the 35 USC §103(a) rejection of claims 1-4 and 7 as unpatentable over Hiroshi in view of Rossoll et al.

Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

As noted in Applicants' previous response of February 10, 2004, Hiroshi discloses a welded terminal section of a lead-acid battery. A Pb-Sn alloy bar is used to weld the top section of electrode pole 2 and the upper section of cup section 3c. Bushing section 3b is burned into a cover 4 of the battery.

Rossoll et al. has been cited for teaching laser welding of a terminal to a battery frame.

Rossoll et al. is not appropriate to be combined with Hiroshi to teach the present invention because it is not directed to a lead acid battery and is instead directed to a solid electrolyte cell and method for producing it in which the cell components are assembled within a ceramic frame which is closed on the top by a first terminal laser welded to the frame, and closed on the bottom by a second terminal laser welded to the frame and said second terminal having the opposite polarity to that of the first terminal. Rossoll et al. is concerned with sealing the battery, and not with securely connecting a lead bushing with a pole inserted through it, as recited in claims 1 and 2 of the instant application.

The Examiner has urged that Rossoll et al. has been cited merely for teaching the joining of two components of a battery. Even if this is admitted, the two components joined by laser welding in Rossoll et al. are a terminal sheet 2 and a ceramic frame 8. This is in contrast to the present invention as recited in claim 3, in which the pole and the lead bushing to be joined are both made of a lead-calcium based alloy.

Accordingly, claim 3 has been canceled and its limitations added to both claim 1 and claim 2.

It should be noted that Hiroshi is directed to selection of materials of a welding bar used for welding the top section of the electrode pole 2 and the upper section of the columnar cup section 3c together in a terminal section of a lead-acid battery.

More specifically, in Hiroshi, a Pb-Ca alloy has been used as a welding bar for welding the top section of the electrode pole 2 and the upper section of the columnar cup section 3c together, causing such problems in that an appearance of the resultant welding section is unsatisfactory, such that finishing work is required and that a pinhole A as shown in Fig. 3 is generated in the welding section 5.

The purpose of the present invention is to remove such problems caused by the Pb-Ca alloy used as the welding bar, and the present invention uses a Pb-Sn alloy as a welding bar, instead of the Pb-Ca alloy, resulting in such advantageous effects that an appearance of the resulting welding section 5 becomes satisfactory, that no finishing work is required and that there

are no pinholes in the welding section 5, resulting in an improved terminal section of a lead-acid battery.

Thus, **Hiroshi** is directed to selection of a Pb-Ca alloy as a material of a welding bar for use in welding the electrode pole and the columnar cup section, and is not directed to laser welding. Therefore, **Hiroshi** is not combinable with **Rossoll et al.** to teach the present invention.

Thus, the 35 USC §103(a) rejection should be withdrawn.

The Examiner has indicated that claims 5, 6 and 8-13 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form.

Accordingly, claims 5, 8 and 9 have been so amended. Newly-added claims 16-23, corresponding to claims 5-6 and 8-13, respectively, have been rewritten in independent form to include the limitations of independent claim 2.

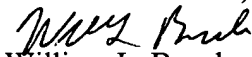
In view of the aforementioned amendments and accompanying remarks, claims 1-13 and 16-23, as amended, are in condition for allowance, which action, at an early date, is requested.

If, for any reason, it is felt that this application is not now in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact Applicants' undersigned attorney at the telephone number indicated below to arrange for an interview to expedite the disposition of this case.

In the event that this paper is not timely filed, Applicants respectfully petition for an appropriate extension of time. Please charge any fees for such an extension of time and any other fees which may be due with respect to this paper, to Deposit Account No. 01-2340.

Respectfully submitted,

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